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## Letter, 1861 June 26, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother, Sisters, and Friends [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley, et al.]

Oscar D. Ladley

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No 3

[F. 1. 1. 1.]

# Camp Philippi.

June 26/61.

Dear Mother, Sisters and Friends.

It is with pleasure that I write to you, and much more when I receive ~~a~~ <sup>a letter</sup> from home. 4 days I have letter by 1. before one dated June 20th. If I am not mistaken this is No. 3. but if you get more than one No. 3. it won't make much difference. You have by this time got the one I wrote a few days ago giving you some facts that have not been mentioned before, perhaps you will think that we have exaggerated some in regard to some things but if you were here you would be satisfied of what I have stated, in regard to the leather on our backs ~~making~~ ~~harmless~~

making a bit of harness, that  
is a little flouery, but there  
is too much never the less.

Six or seven of the Company have  
been sent back to Grafton  
not being able to march.

I suppose you have read or  
heard of a letter published  
in the Cincinnati daily Times  
slandering the Indiana  
troupes, accusing them of  
cowardice, plundering &c. &c.  
It was said to have been written  
by a member of our Company  
(E.) and I believe it was and  
so do all the rest of the boys.  
it has caused hard feelings  
between Ohio Volunteers and the  
Indiana Vols. so much so  
that we came near having  
a fight amongst ourselves.  
they have offered a reward



for the man who wrote the  
article, and they swear they  
will shoot him if they find  
out who he is. Yesterday evening  
an officer of ~~the~~ one of the  
Indiana companies who was  
in the Central American war  
under Walker and who was  
there when he was shot, got  
drunk and rode around  
through the camp cursing  
the Ohio boys calling the  
cowards &c. and that he could  
and would fight any ten  
of them, rode up to our head  
quarters where some of the  
boys myself amongst the  
rest drew out a navy revolver  
and swore if we did not  
tell who wrote the piece he would  
shoot every one of us, none  
of us had any arms at the

time and could do  
nothing at all but take  
all he said, just then his  
Colonel came by and made  
him put up his pistol and  
go to his quarters, so ended  
that, but while we were  
out drilling, soon after  
some of the boys were left  
at the quarters to take  
care of things (this was at  
susk) he came into our camp,  
drew his pistol and shot twice  
at two of our men but did  
not hit any one, Lieut Mad  
was soon on the ground  
and loaded a musket and  
with four others of our men  
who were not out drilling  
took after him and would  
have killed him on the  
spot, but his men arrested  
him and put him under  
guard where he is a present.  
When we came back from  
drill ~~the~~ and heard ~~the~~  
what had happened, it  
was as much as the officers  
could do to keep the men from



going over and shooting  
him; since he has got  
sober he regrets it very  
much, I can't say what  
will be done with him.  
Capt. Kershner ordered us  
to load our guns and be  
ready at any moment to  
avenge a repetition of it.  
I forgot to mention in my letter  
that I ~~had~~ received your letter giving  
an account of the robbery, I wish I  
had been there I think I could have  
tracked the fellow or if I had seen  
him in the act and had my musket  
I think he would have dropped it  
or I would have dropped him.  
the Citizens were very close to make  
it up, they have my sincere thanks  
for so doing. I am very glad the boy

arrived home safe I had thought  
it was lost every thing is in it  
that I sent.

That black stuff you spoke of  
is soap stone, I got it in a  
Coal mine about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile  
under ground while at Bellair.  
it is what forms next to the coal  
seam.

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I have not captured any thing  
as yet nor has any of our  
company as we have not had  
a chance as yet, all the guns  
Milo has captured he could  
put in his eye if he had he would  
not be allowed to keep it as it  
would go with rest of the spoils  
and "Uncle Sam" would take  
care of them. I have sent  
my vest home in a box that  
will be sent to Springfield and  
there will be a jacket and some  
Grafton papers along with them.



We cannot tell when we  
will be home perhaps in about  
four weeks but we cant tell  
I have not enlisted for three  
years nor will more than half  
of the company go.

We expect to move tonight or  
at least very soon.

Nothing more this time write soon  
My love to all.

I am affectionately  
(Confidential) O D Lacey

Tell Ann to

P.S. Give my love to Frank & Jennie  
and all the rest, I would  
to them sometimes if I thought it  
would be reciprocated.

O D L

Tell those that are so anxious for  
us to go for three years to come  
and try it themselves then we  
will see who are the Cowards.

O D L